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'STRATFORD-UPON-AVON. ANCIENT GUILD
HALL
Shakespeare Celebration

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Shakespeare Celebration,

1909.

Descriptive Catalogue

OF

An Exhibition

HOLD IN

The Ancient Guild Hall,

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON,

Monday, 19th April, to Saturday, 8th May,

illustrating an Inventory dated 1595,

and including a number of Ancient Objects

connected with some passages in the

Play of

"THE TAMING OF THE SHREW."

EDWARD HUGH BOSTON, STRATFORD-UPON-AVON.

15
2432
867

Exhibition Committee.

HOLTE, FRANK A., Albany Place.

HOWE, JOHN, Albany Place (*ex-officio*).

SCRIVEN, MRS. E. A., Tyler Street.

WHITCOMBE, A., Bridge Street.

BAKER, OLIVER, Lindenhurst.

BRASSINGTON, W. S., F.S.A., Southcroft.

BOND, ACTON, Knaresborough Place, S.W.

EVANS, F. W., Appleton Mæd (*Chairman*).

EDWARD FOX, Bridge Street, *Hon. Secretary Exhibition Committee.*

The Inventory of Richard Baker, of Stratford- upon-Avon. Died 1595.

The true Inventorye of the goodes and Cattells
of Richard Baker late of old Stratford in the
parish of Stratford vpon Avon in the Countye of
Warwycke husbandman decessed taken the ixth
day of May 1595 & in the xxxvijth yeare of
the Rayngne of our Soverayngne Lady Elizabeth
by the grace of god Queene of Eynghland,
ffraunce, & Ierland defender of the ffayth &c.
by the discretyon of John Gibbs John Palmer,
& Abraham Sturley.

- Inprimis his weryng Apperrell praysed at ——— xiijs iiij^d
It. in the Kytchyn two table bords wyth one frame viij
Joyned stooles, one chyre, a Joyned cubbord &
ij quysshyns at ————— xvs
It. one sylver spone ————— iijs iiij^d
It. iiij brasse potts & a dabnet of brasse ——— xiijs iiij^d
It. one fyer shovell & a pere of tongs ————— viij^d
It. one great brasse pan & iiij kettels ————— xxs
It. ij spyttys, one pere of Cobbards one pere of pott
hooks, a grydyron, one fryng pan & a pere of
lynkes prised at ————— iijs iiij^d
It. v. Candlestyckes & a chaffyng dish of laten ——— vs
It. platters great & small, disshes, sawcers, basons,
saltcellers old and newe of tynne xxxj pieces — xvs
It. v flytches of bacon ————— xijs
It. one knedyng trogh, one Churne thre lomes iiij payles
ij barrells one tubbe of salt, disshes trenchers &
other small Implements at ————— vs
It. one old vtyng fatte one great spynnyng whele thre
wodden bottells one lether bottell a ladder & a
pannell praysed at ————— iijs iiij^d

In the Chamber.

Inprimis one ffether bed, iiij flocke bedds, ij bouldsters wyth
 ffethers, iij bouldsters wyth flocks & iiij pyllowes — xxxs
 It. iij Coverletts vj pere of blankets & ij twyllys — xls
 It. xiiij payre of sheets, xxti table napkins two short bord
 clothes, & other small lynnens ————— xxxs
 It. one bedsted one truelebed ij coffers & a paynted
 tester cloth ————— vjs viijd
 It. iiij bagges ————— ijs

In an vpper chamber.

Inprimis malt iiij quarter & iiij strycke ————— vjli
 It. in a barne at brige town xviiij or twentyc theave of
 Wheate at ————— vli vjs viijd
 It. vj beastes praysed at ————— ixli
 It. xxti sheepe praysed at ————— vli
 It. v. geldyngs & mares & one colt ————— vli
 It. one long Cart, one payre of Wheles yron bound, one
 harrowe, one plow & yrons a swyngle tree, a chayne
 & the geares furnytüre of the teame at — xxvjs viijd
 It. xxti lands and butts of barley & six lands pease &
 fytches ————— vjli xs
 It. iij swyne at ————— xvs
 It. the kylne heare at ————— vs
 It. all other small & great trassh & od thyngs nameles — ijs
 Somma totalis lxli iiij s iiijd

*Exhibited at Stratford-upon-Avon in the court
 of John Bromhall, Vicar 1 Octr 1595.*

*Administration granted to John Gibbs &
 Abraham Sturley.*

T^{vo} 1

ff one silver pome
 ff iii brass stotts & a dabnet of brass & iii
 ff one for stovell & a piece of tongs & iii
 ff one great brass pan & iii kettles
 ff ii spzts, one piece of Colbarde one piece of
 post hook, a traydron, one frying pan & a piece
 of lute p'd at 2
 ff v. Cambrs & a chaffing dish of lute & v
 ff platters great & small, dishes, salver, basins
 saltcellars old and new of tunc p'd at 10
 ff v. stiches of Bacon
 ff one breeding trough, one Churn for lome
 my payes ii barrells one tub of salt, dishes
 tringles & other small implements at 2
 ff one old ruyng salt one great spynnyng wheel
 for wadden bolles on the left bolle a ladder
 a pannel p'd at 1
 14th 11th

In the Chamber

Inp. one flatter bed, my stock bedde ii honestes
 1st flatter, ii honestes my stock & iii
 p'z flatter
 ff ii Colbarlts ii piece of Blankets & ii thyls & 6
 ff p'm paye of spels, p'ti taler napkins two
 best lord cloths, & other small lymen 2
 ff one bedsted one tuched ii coffee
 1st cloths
 D. each 2
 Inp. mact iii. In an 1



NO Inventory of the personal effects of William Shakespeare having survived with his will, it is not possible to say what was the number or character of his goods and chattels. There exists, however, in the priceless stores of local records at the Birthplace, a list of the belongings of one Richard Baker, who was an official of Stratford in 1595; and Warwickshire being still rich in antiquity, it has been decided to attempt to illustrate it, the aim being to get together such examples of English furniture and domestic implements as are mentioned in the Inventory, a printed version and a fac-simile of which are here given.

It is hoped by this Exhibition to present to those whose lives are spent amidst very different scenes some graphic idea of the surroundings and daily life of a fellow-townsmen of Shakespeare's during his lifetime.

It has not been possible to represent all the items by objects which were actually in existence at that time, but habits and modes of living were more persistent then than now, and a proportion of the articles used in the time of Shakespeare were also common to much earlier and to somewhat later times.

It has been thought best to limit the Exhibition strictly to the ordinary domestic furniture of the time or slightly later, so as to get the impression of the actual surroundings amidst which Shakespeare lived and wrote, and not what 19th century artists, illustrators, and others have considered they were or ought to have been.

Some of the property enumerated in the Inventory we have not attempted to include, such as feather beds, which must always have been much the same as now; and swine, poultry, sheep, etc., are not possible.

Several of the objects shown may seem at first sight to have in themselves but slight artistic or antiquarian interest, but they help to make the group more complete.



LIST OF OBJECTS

Exhibited to illustrate the Inventory.

— The numbers refer to Tickets on the several Objects. —

1.

"Inprimis his weryng Apperrell."

A good instance of the apparel worn by a civilian of Richard Baker's station is that of Nicholas Lane whose effigy, dated 1595, stands in the east wall of Alveston Church, about two miles from Stratford.—*Photograph by Mr. Jethro A. Cossins.*

2.

A slightly later example is the portrait, dated 1624, of an unknown man, whose shelf of books shows his literary pursuits.

3 - 5.

LENT BY MR. OLIVER BAKER.

"Two table bords wyth one frame."

The table of this time had always a loose top for convenience in moving it, the former being separate. The examples shown are probably a little later than the date of the Inventory.

6.

"viij joyned stooles."

The framed furniture made with mortice and tenon was called "joined," to distinguish it from the ruder kind made of slabs of wood united with pins. Stools were much more numerous than chairs, especially when, as in this household, there were no benches.

Probably none of the stools shown are actually Elizabethan.

7.

"One chyre" (chair).

As there was only one chair in the house it was probably a handsomely carved one, and the same may be said of the cupboard, which was probably a two-storeyed Court Cupboard, and carved.

"The two guysshyns" (cushions) were no doubt for use on the permanent benches which were often built with the Elizabethan house and part of it. These are not illustrated.

8.

"One sylver spone."

By the kindness of Messrs. Crichton Bros., of Old Bond Street, W., we are able to show three silver spoons, each of which might have been the one possessed by Richard Baker, though it probably most resembled the seal top example.

9 - 11.

"iiiij brasse potts & a dabnet of brasse."

Pots in the 16th century were usually of bell-metal or brass, and were always numerous in a good house. The word "dabnet" is puzzling, and none of the learned authorities consulted can throw any light on it; but it seems likely that it was a kind of skillet or saucepan.

12, 13.

"One fyer shovell & a pere of tongs."

It is hard to say what would be the exact shape of these, but those shown are early ones.

14.

"The great brasse pan" was probably for making cheese.

15, 16.

"The spyttts" would be turned by hand, as mechanical spits were later. This primitive spit was usual from the Middle Ages down to the invention of the smoke-jack in the 18th century. Two perfect examples of the latter still remain, with their spits and appliances complete, in the kitchen of the Stratford-upon-Avon Town Hall.

17.

"The pere of cobbards" were sometimes called cob-irons, and were racks for supporting the spits when in use for roasting.

18, 19.

"The pott hooks" also had racks for adjusting the height of the pot.

20.

"A grydyron."

These were often highly ornamented.

21.

"The fryng pan" having to be used on a flat hearth had a handle of considerable length.

22, 23.

"The pere of lynkes" were perhaps a relic of Richard Baker's official career. They were leg-irons for prisoners.

24 - 28.

"The v candlestyckes" were probably of wood and iron, as well as brass. The chaffyng dish of laten was a shallow and small vessel of brass, which is not shown.

29.

As pewter is not mentioned in the Inventory, the great and small platters, dishes, saucers, basons and salt cellars, here described as of "tynne," were doubtless pewter.

"v flytches of bacon."—Not shown.

30.

"The knedyng trogh" (shown) is of the time of Shakespeare.

31.

"The churne" would be of the vertical plunging type, as shown.

32, 33.

"*The lomes*" were vessels (most often of wood) with wide mouths.

34 - 38.

"*iiij payles*" would be of wood or of leather. The dishes and trenchers would be of wood, and the latter for the most part square.

"*The old vtyng fatte*" is difficult to elucidate, and none of the authorities on old MSS. available can explain it.

39.

"*One great spyunnyng whele.*" This would be a large hand-turned wheel for the spinning of yarn from wool.

40 - 41.

"*The wodden bottels.*" The small wooden kegs, still used in the Warwickshire harvest fields, and "*one lether bottell,*" the earlier vessel, which they have replaced, the "*ladder*" and "*the pannell,*" would be of the ordinary kind.

42.

LENT BY MR. A. WHITCOMBE.

The bedstead shown is of the type likely to be used by Richard Baker, but the bedding is not shown, nor the "*truclebed,*" which was made to slide under the larger one when not wanted.

43.

"*Coffers*" were made of simple slabs of wood, not framed together.

44.

"*Small & great trassh & od thyngs nameles.*"



— LIST OF OBJECTS —
illustrating passages in
“THE TAMING OF THE SHREW.”

INDUCTION.

HOSTESS: “*A pair of stocks, you rogue!*”

1.

The side and bottom pieces of the ancient stocks are from Ilmington, nine miles from Stratford-upon-Avon, and about five miles from Wincot.

The iron fastenings belonged to the stocks at Loxley, about four miles from Stratford.

2.

SLY: “*Go to thy cold bed, and warm thee.*”

The beds of the 16th and 17th century were sometimes stuffed with straw or feathers, and laid on a mattress of plaited rushes, which often formed the bed itself. Ambrose Dudley, Earl of Warwick, is represented in the Beauchamp Chapel, Warwick, as clad in the robes of a Knight of the Garter, and lying on a rush bed (like the one exhibited) with one end rolled up for a pillow. Another instance is the effigy in Tenbury Church, where Sir Thomas Acton, father-in-law to Sir Thomas Lucy, of Charlecote (who was satirised by Shakespeare in “The Merry Wives of Windsor,”) is represented on a similar rush bed.

3.

"And burn sweet wood to make the lodging sweet."

The ancient carved bellows, illustrating this passage, contains in the brass nozzle a small chamber in which "sweet wood" or herbs could be inserted with a morsel of live charcoal, so that by working the bellows the fragrant smoke would be diffused into the room.

The Plague Pan (No. 4), it may be assumed, was used for herbs, the smoke, which would escape through the holes in the lid, being accounted disinfectant.

4.

"Will't please your honour taste of these conserves?"

Conserves were often made by the ladies in great houses. The accompanying MS. book of cookery was compiled by the mistress of Shipton Hall, Salop, in 1687, and gives several recipes for making conserves.

5.

"Go, sirrah, take them to the buttery."

Illustrated with drawings of ancient butteries.

The buttery in a lord's house was placed at the end of the hall. It had in early times an aperture in the wall or door, called the buttery-hatch, which was superseded by the "buttery-bar," a door in two pieces, with a shelf on the lower half. This half-door was secured by a bolt placed so near the floor that the unauthorised toper could not reach it by leaning over, but it could be readily unfastened by the foot of the butler in charge. Only privileged persons would be taken into the buttery itself, the liquor as a rule being dispensed through the hatch.

6.

"For God's sake, a pot of small ale."

The ale-pot of Shakespeare's time would be of wood or leather, rarely of earth or pewter.

7.

"A cup of sack."

In this case a silver stoup was probably meant, but the "cup" was generally a shallow bowl of wood."

8.

"As on a pillory."

Photograph of ancient pillory.

9.

"A joint stool."

(See No. 6 of Inventory).

10.

*"In ivory coffers have I stuff'd my crowns;
In cypress chests my arras counterpoints."*

Ancient Italian cypress chest, or "cassone," and old Italian tapestry.

11.

*"Pewter and brass and all things that belong to house or
housekeeping."*

12.

"Be the jacks fair within, the jills fair without?"

This refers to drinking jacks of leather, of which three examples are shown.

**Note on the local allusions in the Induction to
"The Taming of the Shrew."**

BEGGAR: "*What, would you make me mad?
Am not I Christopher Slie, old Sies son of
Burton-heath.*"

* * * *

*"Aske Marian Hacket, the fat Alewife of Wincot,
if shee know me not:"*

* * * *

FIRST SERVANT: "*Sometimes you would call out for
Cicely Hacket.*"

BEGGAR: "*Ay, the woman's maide of the house.*"

INDUCTION.—*First Folio.*

In the original, or foundation play, "*The Taming of a Shrew*," published in 1594, there are no local allusions, while in the Induction to "*The Taming of the Shrew*" there are several, and these have been thought to be evidence of the Shakespearean authorship of the first scenes.

"The Beggar" gives us his name, Sly or Slie, a name in the Registers at Stratford-upon-Avon.

Wincot is one of the allusions which has puzzled the commentators.

Did Shakespeare allude to Wilmcote, his mother's home; to Wilnecote, near Tamworth; or to Wincot in Gloucestershire? In support of the Gloucestershire Wincot we have the following facts:

1. Wincot is situated in Clifford Chambers, an adjoining parish to Stratford-upon-Avon.
2. In the register of an adjoining parish, Quinton, the name Hackett is found, and in one entry the scribe formed the letter "C" first, and turned it into "S" for "Sara" when transcribing the register, as though "Cicely" was in his mind.

3. At Wincot there is a tradition of long standing that the three fine mulberry trees in the garden were planted by Shakespeare. Although now only one farm house is left, there was a hamlet there, as is proved by foundations recently discovered.

The name "Burton-heath" has been taken to be Barton-on-the-Heath, in Gloucestershire. But the 1623 Folio reads "Burton-heath," and both Barton and Burton-on-Trent are in the same Staffordshire district as Wilnecote. Sir Aston Cokain published in 1658 some verses addressed to Mr. Clement Fisher, of Wincott (*i.e.*, Wilnecote).

*"Shakespeare your Wincot ale hath much renown,
That fox'd a beggar so," &c.*

There is also a tradition (which it would be interesting to investigate) that Shakespeare slept at an inn, "The Three Tuns," at Sutton Coldfield, when travelling from Stratford to the North. This agrees with a similar tradition preserved at the inn at Grendon, on the London road.

W. S. BRASSINGTON.

A number of valuable engravings, interesting play-bills, editions of old plays and various books bearing upon "The Taming of the Shrew," have been kindly lent by the Chairman and Governors of the Shakespeare Memorial Association.



1592

Christened in the Church Elizabeth
Daughter of Edmund Elizabeth

Margarette Symonds the daughter of John Symonds of 22 20
Sturington Lane, was baptised the 29th day of November.
Sara Cartell the daughter of Robert Cartell was baptised
the one and twentieth day of November.
Elizabeth the daughter of Thomas Oled, was
baptised the fourth and twentieth day of November.
Joant, Neade the daughter of William Neade was
baptised the tenth day of January.
Jant Mylles the daughter of William Mylles was
baptised the twentieth day of January.
Elizabeth Wilkin the daughter of John Wilkin the younger
was baptised the seventh day of February.

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